

REMARKS

Claims 17, 18, 20-22, 24-26 and 28-31 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 17, 18, 20-22, 24-26 and 28-30 were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 17, 21 and 25 were amended. Accordingly, claims 17, 18, 20-22, 24-26 and 28-31 remain at issue.

I. Objection To Claims

The Examiner objected to the claims because the numbering was not in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.126. Applicant has renumbered the second occurrence of claim 29 to claim 31, as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 17, 18, 20-22, 24-26 and 28-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fox et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,560,581). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 17 has been amended to clarify that information stored on the storage medium cannot be modified using software techniques. No new information has been added by this amendment because the specification discloses this feature. (See page 10, line 22 through page 11, line 2). Fox et al. neither discloses nor suggests this limitation. Thus, it would not be obvious to derive claim 17, or claims 18, 20 or 29 that depend from claim 17, from Fox et al. For reasons similar to those discussed regarding claim 17, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 21-22, 24-26, 28, and 30-31 are also allowable over Fox et al. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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